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PEORIA TRIBE
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
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CHIEF
Craig Harper

SECOND CHIEF
Logan Pappenfort

February 22, 2021

Director of the Office of Child Care
Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Mary E. Switzer Building, Fourth Floor, MS 4425
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201
General Office number: (202) 690-6782
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RE: Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funding

Attn: Gwendolyn Jones, Region VI OCC Program Manager
Gwendolyn.Jones@acf.hhs.gov

Ms. Jones

The Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma has not finalized a plan for the CRRSA funding but is actively working with program staff and tribal officials to develop an implementation that best addresses the needs of the Peoria Tribe and the communities in which it serves. After reviewing the needs of the community, resources of other tribal CCDF programs in our area and the sustainability of our own CCDF program we have outlined the following as possible ways for the program to expend the funds:

1. Direct Child Care Services:
 - a. Sustaining additional Subsidy monies to allow for a greater service of families while the program prepares to launch a tribally operated facility.
2. Implementation of Virus Mitigation Policies and Practices:
 - a. The program is currently constructing a tribally operated facility that was designed prior to COVID-19. Possible changes are being reviewed to ensure the facility will meet COVID related health and safety recommendations.
3. Grants or Assistance to Stabilize Child Care Providers:
 - a. The Peoria Tribe has recently entered into a partnership with Northeastern Oklahoma College to develop a Job Placement and Training program on the campus to address the needs of Child Care Providers.

4. Assistance to Providers Not Participating in the Subsidy System Prior to the Pandemic:
 - a. The program is reviewing the possibility to serve as a monitoring official for programs who are not licensed by their state to allow for more facilities that can address the growing need for school-age children as a result of the pandemic.

Any additional questions can be directed to:

Tracy Anderson
CCDF Director
tanderson@peoriatribes.com

We are honored to work collaboratively with you to ensure our tribal communities have the resources needed to be successful.

Sincerely,

/s/

Craig Harper
Chief

cc: Tracy Anderson
Sara English
Syd Colombe